

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE 9670

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEW, EEC, XG, JA, CH, RO

SUBJ: INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY PRACTICES RE IMPORTS FROM ROMANIA

REF : STATE 223895

1. SUMMARY. GOR CRITICISMS OF WESTERN NTB'S HAVE BEEN GENERAL BUT NOT USUALLY AIMED AT SPECIFIC INSTANCES. HOWEVER, ROMANIAN EXPORTS OF CLOTHING, MEAT, AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS TO EC COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY ITALY AND BRITAIN) HAVE BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY QRS AND ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GOR HAS BEEN VOCALLY CRITICAL OF WESTERN TRADE RESTRICTIONS IN GENERAL, PARTICULARLY IN CSCE BASKET II CONTEXT. ON EVE
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OF HELSINKI'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY, SEVERAL AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLES TO NEED FOR FREE ECONOMIC RELATIONS "WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS TO POLITICAL STRINGS." NEVERTHELESS, ROMANIAN OFFICIALS DO NOT NORMALLY VOICE DETAILED COMPLAINTS INVOLVING NTB'S ERECTED BY SPECIFIC WESTERN COUNTRIES AGAINST ROMANIAN EXPORTS. EMBASSY RECEIVES MOST OF ITS INFORMATION ON EXISTENCE OF SUCH ESTRICCTIONS FROM OTHER WESTERN POSTS AND SECONDARILY FROM USMISSION GENEVA.

3. COMMON MARKET RESTRICTION ABOUT WHICH ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN MOST OUTSPOKEN IS ITALIAN RESTRICTION ON IMPORT OF MEAT. WE HAVE NO QUANTITATIVE DATA ON IMPACT OF THIS RESTRICTION BUT ROMANIANS HAVE GIVEN CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT IT IS CONSIDERABLE. DURING SEPTEMBER 16 MEETING WITH MFT DIRECTOR DUMITRESCU RELATED TO GATT COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF GOI DEPOSIT SCHEME, HE SEVERELY CASTIGATED ITALIAN ACTIONS TAKEN FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS REASONS, INDICATING CONTINUING ROMANIAN SENSITIVITY TO GOI TRADE PRACTICES.

4. ROMANIAN EXPORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN AFFECTED BY EC INVOCATION OF ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION AGAINST EE GATT COUNTRIES (USMISSION GENEVA 4701 AND 6434). JUNE 1976 ESCAPE ACTION WAS INVOKED UNDER GOR'S GATT ACCESSION PROTOCOL PROVISION WITH REGARD TO SMALL ELECTRIC MOTORS AND LIGHT BULBS, WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON MEN'S WOOLEN SUITS. ROMANIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT EC ACTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNDER GATT'S ARTICLE XIX, A POSITION WHICH EC REGARDS AS UNTENABLE. EC CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN QR'S ON EE TEXTILE EXPORTS (INCLUDING CLOTHING) WHICH AFFECT ROMANIA AS LARGEST SUPPLIER TO COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES.

5. UNITED KINGDSOM REQUESTED IN JANUARY 1976 THAT EE COUNTRIES INSTITUTE "VOLUNTARY" QR'S ON EXPORTS OF WOOL SUITS AND SHOES, BUT FOLLOWED UP IN MARCH WITH "TEMPORARY, EMERGENCY" QR'S ON WOOL SUIT IMPORTS AIMED AT FIVE EE COUNTRIES (LONDON 3860). AS LARGEST SUPPLIER TO UK, ROMANIAN WOULD BE HARDEST HIT. SITUATION WAS COMPOUNDED ONE MONTH LATER WHEN UK TRADE MINISTRY INAUGURATED ANTI-DUMPING PROBE AIMED AT ROMANIAN POLYESTER FIBERS.

6. ONE OTHER NTB AFFECTING ROMANIAN EXPORTS TO THE WEST IS ONLY POTENTIAL. AUSTRIA ELIMINATED ALL QR'S WITH CEMA MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN JANUARY 1975, BUT SUBSTITUED "IMPORT MONITORING SYSTEM" WHICH REQUIRES PRO FORMA PRESENTATION BY EXPORTER OF INVOICE AT BORDER ENTRY POINT. SYSTEM REPRESENTS POTENTIAL MEANS OF IMPOSING QR'S IF GOA CHOOSES, AND EE GOVERNMENTS HAVE GRUMBLED OVER SYSTEM'S OPERATION. NO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS FOR GOR HAVE YET ARisen.

7. IN CONTEXT OF MAKING REPRESENTATION AT MFT RECENTLY,
WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO GLANCE AT GATT DOCUMENT (L/4343/ADD 1
OF AUGUST 18, 1976), WHICH EVIDENTLY REPRESENTS COMPILATION
OF RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY GATT MEMBERS OF THEIR TRADE WITH
ROMANIA. FROM CURSORY EXAMINATION WE WOULD RECOMMEND THIS
AS BASIC SOURCE MATERIAL.

8. FOR GENEVA: IF YOU HAVE NOT RPT NOT ALREADY DONE SO, WE
REQUEST YOU FORWARD TO US COPIES OF L/4343 AND L/4343ADD 1.
BARNES

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